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Title: Letter from John Peck, Ambassador of Great Britain to Ireland, to Taoiseach Jack Lynch, enclosing an advance copy (not present) of the British government's Green Paper on Northern Ireland.

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL


Mr O'Sullivan
Mr MacG...

BRITISH EMBASSY

DUBLIN

26 October 1972

The Taoiseach
Mr John Lynch BL, TD

By dear Taoiseach.

I have been asked to pass to you the enclosed proof copy of the Consultative Document on Northern Ireland—the "Green Paper" — which is to be published at noon on 30 October. I have also been asked to stress the embargo time and point out that you are receiving a copy before any Northern Ireland politician. We should be grateful if, in any public comment after publication, you would take care not to let it appear that you have had time to study the document fully.

The document sets out the proposals which have been made to Mr Whitelaw by political parties and others. It closes no doors except the obviously impossible ones (eg immediate unification or Craig-style U.D.I.). What is called the Irish dimension is taken fully into account. If the people of Northern Ireland themselves can find a common thread running through the various proposals which might form the basis of a compromise acceptable to all or most, then a solution may at last be in sight. In setting out the existing proposals, and pointing out the practical requirements which any workable settlement must satisfy, Her Majesty's Government remain neutral. The Prime Minister and his colleagues much hope that your Government will do the same. The essential first step is peace and a willingness to look for a compromise: we hope that your Government will not feel bound to emphasise at this point their hopes for quadripartite talks or a solution in a united Ireland context, since we consider that this would make Mr Whitelaw's task more difficult. Your words would be eagerly seized upon by Protestant extremists to justify rejection of any reform measures, and by the IRA to justify continuing violence.

I have been asked to add that if you have any comments or suggestions on the document, they would indeed be welcome to Her Majesty's Government. I should be glad to transmit them.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John Peck

John Peck

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